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MORE FOR ALL

But Growing Pains Slow GDR Progress

There will be big increases in industrial and agricultural production in the German Democratic this year, and more in the shops, but many problems are still unsolved, Bruno Leuschner, GDR planning chief, told the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party on March 16th.

In a very frank speech emphasising the difficulties and problems which still faced the GDR, Herr Leuschner, Chairman of the State Planning Commission, announced that industrial production this year was scheduled to increase by over seven percent; more than five percent more consumer goods would be available on the internal market than in 1960. This will be a big increase, considerably more than in such states as Britain and the United States, but it will not be quite as big as originally planned.

Herr Leuschner was presenting final figures for the state plan for 1961. He explained that the final figures were being presented so late because special problems in the foreign trade field had presented themselves in the latter part of 1960. At that time West Germany, one of the GDR's big trade partners, had unilaterally cancelled its trade agreement. The cancellation was later revoked, but the hold-up had inevitably delayed the finalisation of plans. For the first three months of this year, GDR industry had to work in accordance with provisional target figures.

Announcing details of the 1961 plan, which was approved by the People's Chamber a few days later, Herr Leuschner announced that in 1961 industrial production would rise by 7.2%, a little less than the 1960 figure. Foreign trade was scheduled to increase by nearly 5%, capital investments by 9%, and the supply of consumer goods by 5.5%.

There will be a big increase in the building trade, with 94,000 new flats compared to 80,000 in 1960, and far more industrial building. In the industrial field the greatest efforts would be concentrated on further mechanisation and automation.

Turning to the problems still to be solved, Herr Leuschner said that one of the main tasks was to reduce dependence upon imports from West Germany. "This will make our economy proof against

(cont. on next page)

Veteran Revolutionary Dies

Heinrich Rau, revolutionary veteran and Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, died suddenly as the result of a heart attack on March 23rd, a few days before his 62nd birthday.

Rau, one of the most respected leaders of the GDR, had led a hard life, epitomising the struggle and suffering of the best section of the German working class.

He was born in Stuttgart in 1899, son of a worker, and went to work in a machine shop at the age of 14. He immediately joined the trade union and the socialist youth movement, and during the First World War he joined the Spartacus League, the anti-war revolutionary wing of the German socialist movement.

He played an active part in the 1918 revolution which overthrew the Kaiser, and joined the newly-founded Communist Party in 1919. During the next years he led Communist work amongst peasants and agricultural workers, and was elected to the Provincial Parliament of Prussia in 1928.

Immediately after Hitler came to power in 1933, Rau was arrested and sentenced to two years imprisonment. On his release he managed to escape from Germany.

Early in 1937 he made his way to Spain, where he rapidly rose to command the 11th (German-speaking) Brigade of the International Brigades which were fighting against Franco. When the Spanish Republic fell in 1939 he was interned in France, and in 1942 the Vichy police handed him over to the Gestapo. He spent the rest of the war in Mauthausen Concentration Camp, where he was a leading member of the illegal international committee of camp inmates.

Immediately after the end of the Second World War he made his way back to Berlin, and threw himself into the task of building a new and better Germany. In 1948 he became Chairman of the German Economic Commission, central economic body of the then Soviet Occupation Zone. Since the formation of the German Democratic Republic in 1949 he successively held the post of Chairman of the State Planning Commission, Minister for Machine Construction, and Foreign Trade Minister. Since 1949 Heinrich Rau had been a member of the Politburo of the Socialist Unity Party.

As Foreign Trade Minister, Heinrich Rau made many trips to the countries of the Near East and Asia, and played an outstanding part in establishing close links between the GDR and the new national states.

attempts to disturb our development made by certain circles in West Germany."

Another big problem was the shortage of man power. This is a long-term problem, mainly due to the fact that Germany had an abnormally low birth rate between 1941 and 1948, in the war years and immediately after the war.

Other difficulties listed by Herr Leuschner included the lack of important raw materials in the GDR, and the fact that in recent years buying power has increased more rapidly than the supply of goods.

"These difficulties and problems cannot all be solved in the course of one year, but they are not insoluble problems: they can be licked," Herr Leuschner said.

One of the main steps to be taken would be concentration on mechanisation and automation, thus increasing productivity and overcoming the bottleneck presented by labour shortage.

The skilled workers and specialised machinery available in the GDR aircraft industry would be devoted in future to the task of turning out high-grade equipment for mechanisation and automation, Herr Leuschner announced. (The GDR aircraft industry, built from scratch a few years ago, has hitherto built piston commercial planes on licence from the Soviet Union; a projected medium commercial jet never got past the prototype stage.)

The various changes which would have to be made in the industrial structure would involve extensive planning changes, and some target dates would have to be revised, Herr Leuschner said.

He made it clear that despite such changes, the standard of living in the GDR would continue to rise steadily, as it has in the past few years.

"At the end of 1961 our position with regard to consumer goods will be as follows:

"The people of the GDR will be consuming, per head, more meat, butter, fat and sugar than the people in West Germany. With regard to milk and cheese we shall not have so much to offer, since we use considerably more of our milk to produce butter. Coffee, chocolate and tropical fruits will not be so plentiful as in West Germany because these are all goods that we have to import from capitalist countries.

"In other fields of consumer goods the position is differentiated. In some branches consumption is at the same level in both German states; in some our consumption exceeds the West German figure. With regard to some classes of textiles and such goods as refrigerators, in particular goods for which the raw materials mainly have to be imported from capitalist countries, we are not in a position to offer so much as West Germany can at present."

Herr Leuschner gave figures showing that there had been very big increases in the supply of some of the main household equipment. In 1958 only one household in 50 had a refrigerator or washing machine; by the end of 1961 the figure will be roughly one household in ten. In 1958, one household in 16 had a TV set; by the end of 1961 the figure will be one household in four.

A FULL SHOPPING BASKET

The table below shows the consumption per head of some main foodstuffs in the German Democratic Republic, Britain, and the United States. Asterisks indicate that corresponding figures were not available.

	GDR (1961 plan)	Britain (1960)	USA (1958)
Butter	31 lbs	20 lbs	67 lbs (all fats 1960)
Margarine	24 lbs	+	
Meat	129 lbs	124 lbs	152 lbs
Fish	31 lbs	+	10 lbs
Cheese	8 lbs	9 lbs	9 lbs

Strauss Wins in Bavaria

Defence Minister Franz Josef Strauss of West Germany was elected Chairman of the Christian Social Union in Bavaria on March 18th. This is the strong Bavarian section of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party, and Strauss, as its leader, has a powerful jumping-off place for the job of successor to Chancellor Adenauer. Strauss has been the loudest of all West German political leaders in his demands for more and stronger atomic armaments for the armed forces. A political education officer in a nazi anti-aircraft outfit during the war, Strauss has been responsible for naming several hundred leading nazi officers to present command posts in the West German armed forces since he became Defence Minister.

German-African Society Founded

A new "German-African Society in the GDR" was founded on March 17th in East Berlin to increase contact between the GDR and the new African states and to help the people of Africa achieve and strengthen their independence. The opening meeting was attended by leading statesmen, scientists and other personalities from the GDR and by representatives from ten African countries. Mrs Ruth Botsio, Treasurer of the Ghana Women's Union and wife of the Ghanaian Minister of Agriculture, brought greetings from her country and its President, Dr Nkrumah.

Professor Walter Markov, President of the new society, stated in his opening speech that the GDR had always done everything in its power to support the struggle of the people of Africa.

Heinrich Mann Honoured

The urn with the mortal remains of Heinrich Mann, great German author, was interred in a cemetery in East Berlin on March 27th, in accordance with the wish of the author. Like his famous brother Thomas, Heinrich Mann left Germany when Hitler took power and lived in Czechoslovakia, France and then America. In 1949 he was named President of the German Academy of Arts in East Berlin, but died before he could make the trip from California to the newly-formed German Democratic Republic. Among his many satirical novels and other works, "Professor Unrat" became most famous outside Germany because of its filming as "The Blue Angel" with Marlene Dietrich. During his exile years in France before the war, Heinrich Mann headed the main anti-fascist organisation of German exiles.

'Tribune' Discovers GDR

Labour Paper Finds Much to Praise

(The London "Tribune", lively Labour weekly, has in the past consistently opposed West German re-armament, but has been rather slow to realise that there is another German state.

"Tribune" reporter Raymond Fletcher recently toured the GDR, however, and discovered that it really exists. He reported his findings in two articles published by his paper on March 3rd and March 10th, which are reprinted, slightly shortened, below.)

I have just returned from a 1,300-mile tour of a country that, according to the Western powers, does not exist. The German Democratic Republic is not recognised by any Western Government.

But the GDR not only exists. It continues to confound the false prophets who have been predicting its eventual collapse ever since it was founded. For its economy is flourishing.

Take, for example, the collectivisation of agriculture. We have been told in the West that it was forced on unwilling peasants and has already failed. I had no time to make a detailed study of agricultural problems, but I saw enough to convince me that both allegations are completely false . . .

If this is true my eyes have really been deceiving me. Every square yard of cultivable land I saw seemed to be under cultivation. If the peasants are in a state of active or passive rebellion, who is doing the work? Walter Ulbricht cannot be doing it himself.

As my German hosts frankly admitted, there is a labour shortage in the country. Youth organisations, and even the Army, have had to help out on the land. But the skilled work is plainly being done by the skilled hands of peasants.

Even the word "collectivisation" itself carries false implications. As the man who showed me round the 15-village co-operative farm at Jahna explained, the Russian kolkhoz had not been their model. There are three types of co-operative, but none of them requires individual members to surrender their land.

The Jahna co-operative was obviously flourishing. But no attempt was made to persuade me that it was typical. When I expressed fully justified enthusiasm about Jahna's pig programme I was sharply reminded by a member of a visiting German delegation from the nearby town of Meissen not to make hasty generalisations. He was a member of the Socialist Unity Party.

I make no extravagant claims for German co-operative farming. Nor do the GDR authorities themselves, as far as I could judge from reading newspapers. But it has not failed. The peasants are not drilled robots. The mistakes the Russians made in the 1920s are understood and, I believe, have been avoided. Co-operative farming in the GDR faces many difficulties, but it is there to stay.

On other sectors of the economy I shall report later. But a few generalisations are permissible. And the first is that the real Wirtschaftswunder (economic miracle) in Germany has been achieved in the territory of the GDR.

It is true that most of the houses could do with some fresh plaster and some fresh paint. It is true that there are more cars on the roads in the Federal Republic. It is true that some consumer goods are in short supply.

Wherein, then, lies the miracle? It become apparent at such places as Stalinstadt. There a vast new ironworks and a completely new town (it will eventually house some 50,000) have been constructed on what was formerly woodland.

You can see it, smell it and feel it at Cottbus where the gigantic Schwarze Pumpe works is rising on what was another stretch of woodland. At Schwarze Pumpe miraculous things are being done with lignite already . . .

At the reconstructed chemical works at Leuna they are preparing for a vast expansion of the plastics industry.

I could go on, citing factory after factory. Mistakes are being made. Some plans have not been fulfilled. Economic bottlenecks are freely publicised in the GDR press. But, let us make no mistake about it, the country's economy is throbbing with dynamic energy.

And most of these industries had to start from scratch. Rostock, for example, has shipyards and is building a completely new harbour. In 1946 it had nothing but a small boat-building establishment.

This eastern part of Germany was never highly industrialised. It was always regarded as the German breadbasket. When the war ended most industries lay in ruins and much of the equipment left had to go to the Soviet Union as reparations.

The economic task which the Government of the GDR set itself in 1949 excluded all possibility of immediate easy living for the population. Fantastically heavy investment was necessary. A new labour force had to be trained. Thousands, unable to face the sacrifices, left for the West.

Many still do. I had an astonishingly frank discussion with Horst

Concentration Camp Memorial

Sachsenhausen Memorial, third of a group honouring those who suffered and died in the main nazi concentration camps, will be opened on April 23rd, the 16th anniversary of the liberation of Sachsenhausen by the Soviet armies. Thousands of foreign and West German visitors and 100,000 citizens of the GDR are expected for the inaugural ceremonies. Sachsenhausen, about twenty miles north of Berlin, was one of Hitler's first large concentration camps. Of the 200,000 anti-fascists, Jews, prisoners-of-war and other inmates from 20 countries, 100,000 were hanged, shot or beaten to death, after being worked to exhaustion in nazi armament plants. (The photo shows a model of the present memorial, with some of the old barracks, the new anti-fascist museum, and the central 125-foot high obelisk.)

Brasch, Vice-President of the National Council of the National Front, about the reasons for the exodus from the GDR. Herr Brasch, incidentally, was once in Britain — and once an AEU shop steward.

As we talked and argued it became clear to me that a great majority of the refugees left the GDR for exactly the same reasons that so many British people turned against the Labour Government of 1945-51. Herr Brasch did not make this comparison. I did so myself.

Now, the major economic problems of the GDR have been solved. Living standards are much higher than I had imagined. Prices, I discovered in casual conversations in Leipzig, have started to come down. The building industry faces a materials shortage — but new flats are going up rapidly (in Stalinstadt they built a new school in four months) in the cities.

There is much to criticise in the GDR. I have no wish to go on record as an unalloyed admirer of all I saw. But, for the moment, let me draw the main conclusion from my visit.

It is that the social and economic changes accomplished between the Elbe and the Oder are now permanent. The German Democratic Republic is a state whose existence, like that of Communist China, must be recognised by the West.

You cannot, of course, "see" an economy, except in statistical tables and graphs. You can only check what you see in the shape of factories and goods against what you have already learned from figures. It was with this limited aim that I went to the German Democratic Republic.

What I saw, along with the discussions I had, convinced me that the figures tell the truth. The economic progress charted in the current issue of the Statistical Pocket Book is real. I asked about wages in factories and about prices in shops. The trends in both — the first upward, the second steady — are as shown in the figures.

Even the shortcomings are accurately recorded. We (that is, my driver, my guide and myself) did not find it easy to buy oranges during our 1,300 mile journey. A fresh fruit shortage is admitted in the Pocket Book . . .

So much for the economy. What of the people? Are they cowed, oppressed and unable to live private lives? I had not time to interview all 17 million of them, of course, but a few generalisations may be permitted to one who knew Germany and Germans before the GDR was ever heard of.

The first is that the private lives of citizens of the GDR are getting more and more private. This despite all the strident, irritating propaganda on hoardings, in newspapers and on radio and TV. (To call it propaganda, incidentally, is not to denigrate it all. In Potsdam there is a great hoarding calling for world disarmament. Everywhere there are attractive posters outlining Mr. Khrushchev's disarmament plan. The first poster I saw on returning to London told me that "Conservatives Care.")

Germans go about their business, talk about trivialities in cafés, fill in their football pools, sing silly popular songs (those about tractors and power stations went out years ago), grumble about the Government, fall in and out of love, raise children, watch television, read paper-backs and plan holidays.

There is plenty for them to eat and more and more for them to wear. Their health is well looked after — through an excellent Health Service — and their children have a secure future (over 90 per cent of university students are on scholarships).

As far as social services are concerned, they are far better off than their fellow-Germans in the Federal Republic. Their opera houses, theatres and cinemas are cheaper, and so are their rents and fares. And the children and youngsters, quite literally, have never had it so good.

Only one thing is lacking. They cannot vote against the Government. They can criticise (some of their journalists are experts at this: at least one Minister has been removed from office as a result of press attacks), they can participate in the selection of National Front candidates for the Volkskammer elections and they can petition for the recall of a deputy. But only one list of candidates is presented at elections.

The GDR is not a one-party state. There is a Christian Democratic Union, a National Democratic Party (which represents middle-class interests), a Liberal Democratic Party (which expresses the views of private businessmen) and so on. These parties do argue. At a reception in Karl-Marx-Stadt I provoked an argument between a member of the NDP and some from the Socialist Unity Party. It was quite a tussle while it lasted.

But all parties accept the Seven-Year Plan, the leading role of the Socialist Unity Party, the Warsaw Pact, close collaboration with the Soviet Union and the Oder-Neisse boundary with Poland. The National Front binds them all together. "So long as we are threatened by West German militarism," I was told in one discussion, "we are in a state of emergency. The National Front reflects this."

Certainly the threat from West Germany conditions all political thinking in the GDR. During my talks with officers of the Volksarmee at the Ministry of Defence it came up again and again. "Here", said Colonel Helbig, "we have the same uniforms, but different ideas. Over there they have different uniforms but the same ideas . . ."

This is the necessary context within which arguments about freedom and free elections must be conducted. So long as the German Democratic Republic is regarded by Bonn (and the West) as merely an occupied zone — an area to be "liberated" rather than a state to be negotiated with — there can be no question of free elections.

If we really want an extension of freedom in the GDR, in short, the best way to go about it is to recognise the GDR's existence. The National Front will not dissolve itself immediately on recognition nor would an opposition develop overnight. And Herr Ulbricht would not apply for membership of the Fabian Society. But at least we Social Democrats will be in a stronger position to argue freedom after recognition than we are now.

As it is, there is more freedom than most of us realise. The proliferation of uniforms (an old German weakness this: their train drivers always did look like admirals) gives a false impression to an English visitor. So do the arms carried by the police.

Stalin's name survives on several factories and has been given to one town. But Stalinism itself, while not completely dead, is visibly dying. And its death is not entirely due to Mr. Khrushchev's 1956 revelation.

A new generation of political leaders, industrial directors and the like is moving into the key positions in the GDR. They think in terms of ideology, but they are basically realists. Five years from now the political face of the GDR will be a much younger one. The consequences for co-existence will be good.

Moreover, as the Seven-Year Plan works its way through to success (that it will I have no doubt whatever) and living standards rise, the present drift of people to the West will probably be reversed. Even now 50,000 go eastwards from the Federal Republic every year.

In 1965, I predict, the present system will be as secure politically at it is now economically. What of the effects on German unity? I have no answer. German reunification, as I told my hosts, is a problem for Germans. Let us get our arms and armies out of Central Europe and leave them to solve it.

"Back from Leipzig in Rage"

Writes Lord Boothby in the "Sunday Dispatch"

I have just been to the Leipzig spring fair, and I have come back in a rage. I had been told that it was the greatest exhibition of its kind in the world, a shop-window for the whole of the Orient and Africa.

And I did not believe it. Now I know that this is true. We have had an unparalleled opportunity of displaying our goods and expanding our trade, which our industrialists have mercifully seized with both hands.

But the government have had nothing to do with it. Why? Because they will not face the facts of life and the realities of the German situation.

It's the old, old story.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered that there were no direct British European Airways flights to Leipzig. Sabena, yes. KLM, yes. But not BEA.

In voluble indignation, I asked why transport facilities were being denied to British industrialists for an export drive the value of which could hardly be disputed.

The answer was simple. BEA had wanted to put on a daily service to Leipzig during the fair and had been told by the government to "lay off" for fear of offending the West Germans.

Fortunately our industrialists were not so chicken-livered.

In face of all the obstacles the Board of Trade could devise, and bucketsful of bureaucratic cold water, they put up a magnificent show.

It would be invidious to draw distinctions between the British firms which exhibited.

But a special word of praise is due to the steel companies. They beat them all to it — Krupp's, Mannesmann, the Russians, the lot.

That steel hall made one feel proud to be British.

Then came the moaning and groaning. Not from the politicians, not from those who are alleged to be taking big money in commission, from such trade as we can manage to do with East Germany, and through Leipzig — with the "uncommitted" world.

From the representatives of every single British firm I spoke to, without exception.

By and large the government have been refusing visas to the East Germans who wished to come to this country to see what we could do and to place orders.

And, in the comparatively rare cases when visas have been granted, they have been prefixed with the insulting stamp "presumed to be German."

As a result, our own industrialists have been obliged to fight their way into East Germany as best they could, and negotiate on the spot.

"How come?" I asked. The answer was unequivocal. Pressure from the West German Government, in Bonn, was the unanimous reply.

When they had their trade dispute with the East Germans last year they ordered us to put an equivalent clamp on our own trade with East Germany. And the Board of Trade meekly complied.

This is not the end of the story. As soon as the Bonn Government thought they had got us out of the light, they started up again.

The activities of Herr Beitz, the brilliant manager of Krupp's, have been incessant throughout Eastern Europe.

At moments when it is thought politic to do so, they have been disowned by the Federal German Government. But he soon pops up again.

And there were no fewer than 1,217 exhibitors from West Germany at the Leipzig Fair.

The object of this exercise is clear enough. The West German Government are determined, if they can, to maintain economic control over East Germany.

Their representatives meet those of the East German Government in Berlin every week.

At the same time Dr. von Brentano, the Foreign Minister of the Federal West German Republic, insists that East Germany doesn't exist and the British Foreign Office agrees.

It is high time this nonsense was ended.

I think the time has come to face the fact that there are two Germanys.

And when I think of what a united Germany has done to this country, and to European civilisation, in this 20th centrury, I cannot cry myself to sleep over it.

Hitler did not start in Leipzig or in Dresden. He started in Munich and moved north to Berlin.

But the price of Hitler has been paid by East Germany. They have paid the reparations. They have had imposed upon them a communist system which they never wanted.

As a result, their countryside, much of which I have seen during the past week, is drab and colourless.

But they are coming up. I saw no signs of abject poverty. On the contrary, the children — always the acid test — were obviously well fed, well shod and happy.

Moreover, the East German Government have accepted the Oder-Neisse Frontier with Poland and the

Wiles of Bonn

"Export to live", cries the Government. But here is a strange thing. When British businessmen try to export to East Germany they get no help from the Government.

The East Germans offered British firms a £40,000,000 order for a steel plant. But the Government-controlled Export Credits Guarantee Department refused to provide credit. So the contract has gone to the French.

The loss of this order is just one item of an astonishing catalogue of missed opportunities in East Germany. Our trade with that country is a tiny £4,000,000 a year. Why? Because the Government heeds Dr. Adenauer, who tells Britain not to expand trade with the "wicked Communists" in East Germany.

Does the stern and unbending Chancellor obey the advice he hands out to others? Not likely.

With their competitors out of the way the West Germans are doing a roaring trade with the East, worth £100 million a year. And the West German Government does not hesitate to help its businessmen push their sales behind the Iron Curtain.

There is only one way to deal with these wily West Germans.

To sell as much we can to East Germany.

("Daily Express", London March 15th)

West German Government have not.

It is my firm conviction that, in present circumstances, a reunited Germany would be the gravest of all menaces to world peace.

To pretend, as we do, that East Germany does not exist, is almost as idiotic as to pretend that the Government of China is in Formosa.

Meanwhile the "export-minded" British Government refuses to join the Common Market; and puts every obstacle in the way of trade with Eastern Europe.

Where the hell do they want us to export our goods.

Sweden? It is not enough.

For my part I say:

Three cheers for the British industrialists who had the courage and enterprise to take risks and spend money in order to put us on the map at Leipzig.

No cheers for the government which did nothing to encourage, and much to hinder them.

("Sunday Dispatch", London, March 12th)

A Visit to Leipzig Fair

By Allen Mann

Twice a year the city of Leipzig, otherwise a hard-working, rather pleasant but not very exciting place, becomes a beehive of intense activity; its streets are choked with cars and its pavements, restaurants and sparse nightclubs are over-filled with visitors in all costumes and speaking all languages.

Every March and September the Leipzig Fair makes the city a centre of world trade interest. In the autumn attention is on consumer goods, in the spring both consumer goods and heavy industry are represented.

The people of Leipzig love their fairs, even though trams, and just about everything else are jammed. One main reason is that there is an interesting global atmosphere during the seven to ten days when the fair halls are opened; but there are other more material reasons as well. Even under socialism, no-one is averse to earning some extra money, and thousands of Leipzigers do just that. They rent out their extra rooms, they use their old jalopy as an "auxiliary taxi", or they work in a wide variety of jobs ranging from nightwatchman and cleaning woman to interpreter.

Geographically, the fair is in two parts. In the centre of the city are the consumer goods exhibits, housed in buildings with many arcades, galleries and traditions reaching back to the medieval fairs here in Leipzig at the crossroads of the main east-west and north-south trade routes. There are the special buildings for furniture, sports articles, shoes, musical instruments, sewing machines, foods, porcelain and glassware and many other articles. The two main centres of interest here are the big building featuring clothing of all kinds and the book exhibits, which now fill one major building and two annexes and are still growing.

About two-thirds of the exhibits in these buildings are filled by the firms of the GDR (most of them publicly-owned, of course). But scattered between them are a wide assortment of stands with products from West Germany, West Berlin and almost all countries of the world.

The fair grounds, where the other part of the exhibits are located, is more on the outskirts of this city of 600,000. Here is where the locomotives, the huge cranes, the cars, harvesters and the heavy machinery are located. And this is also where the different national exhibits are located. Some, like the Soviet Union, Britain, India, and Czechoslovakia have big buildings of their own; others have one section, or in the case of a few newcomers from non-industrial countries, only a little niche, where they show some of the fruits, handicrafts or other products of their country.

Beside the national exhibits there are also buildings reserved for different heavy industries — mining, chemicals, electricity, aircraft and so forth. And between and in the buildings are the milling throngs of people, walking, waiting in short queues for sausage, ice cream or a seat in a restaurant, watching demonstrations of a crane, a potato harvester, a model whaleboat or some other equipment, and collecting the thousands of brochures, leaflets, booklets and prospectuses handed out by the different firms from near and far. Although there is an age minimum of fourteen years for entrance to the fair, a swarm of suspiciously younger-looking boys always seem to find their way in somehow, and they are naturally experts in collecting the free material. I saw some triumphant boys with piles of literature they could hardly lift up into the tram.

The main business of the fair naturally takes place behind closed doors, or in the little cabins belonging to each stand, where the firm representative talks to his prospective trade partner over a cup of coffee or a glass of cognac. A small deal between two firms may be at stake, or it may be a million dollar contract for a new factory or a year's supply of oranges. A great deal of the trade done during the fair is with the German Democratic Republic, which uses the opportunity to sell its commodities abroad, but there are all sorts of business negotiations between other countries which do not involve the GDR. The main reason for the importance of the Leipzig Fairs is that they are the best chance for trade and business people from east and west to meet, see each other's wares and make or prepare trade deals.

At the fair this year there were over 9000 exhibitors from 51 countries, plus about 50,000 visitors from 90 foreign countries, West Germany and West Berlin. But as ever, the bulk of the crowds who filled the fair buildings came from all parts of the GDR — 580,000 of them within ten days; they included cooperative farmers, students, old-age pensioners, professors and huge numbers of workers, sent with expenses paid by their factories to compare their own products with those manufactured in other factories and other countries. The idea is to encourage the achievement of world-wide quality and technology standards for GDR products, and the fair is just the place for this if you are expert enough to know the difference between one type of motor or machine and the other.

So everybody benefits. Leipzig gets an international atmosphere for ten days, its citizens also make a little extra money, the visitors from all over the country get a chance to compare their work with products made in all other countries, and most important of all, peaceful trade relations between eastern and western countries are increased and strengthened. For all these reasons, the Leipzig Fairs are getting bigger and more successful every year.

Menuhin in GDR

The great American violinist Yehudi Menuhin returned to Dresden in early March to the concert hall where he had achieved his first great European success 32 years ago as a 13-year-old child prodigy. Menuhin, playing the same Beethoven Violin Concerto, received the same huge welcome and applause as at his early concerts. At his second GDR concert, in Leipzig, young music-lovers literally forced their way into the jammed concert-hall to hear the musician, who had not played here since 1931.

Peace Commission Mooted

The two German states should establish a "peace commission" which could reach agreement on disarmament in Germany and the preparation of peace treaties with the two German states, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council, suggested at a meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany on March 19th.

"The basic question confronting the German nation is the maintenance of peace through disarmament, and a lasting peace settlement" Walter Ulbricht stated. "The German Democratic Republic therefore suggests to the German Federal Republic negotiations on the establishment of a German Peace Commission composed of representatives with equal rights from both German states.

"The task of this Peace Commission would be to bring about a rapprochement between the two German states, and an understanding on disarmament in Germany; on this basis common ground could be found for the conclusion of a peace treaty with both German states.

"Disarmament and the guarantee of peaceful development by means of a peace treaty form the only possible foundation for bringing the two German states together in a confederation which could provide the framework for the national unity of the two differing German states.

"The German Democratic Republic is in favour of holding a plebiscite on the vital questions confronting the nation. I would like to recall that in a letter to Konrad Adenauer in January 1960 I proposed that the two German states should hold a plebiscite on general and complete disarmament and the conclusion of a peace treaty on the basis of the United Nations Charter. The Government of the German Democratic Republic is ready to conduct negotiations on this proposal at any time.

"I should like to make it quite clear that the claims of Bonn politicians to be in favour of 'free self-determination' are utterly cynical as long as the Bonn regime clings to nuclear arms, blocks every attempt to reach an understanding between the two German states, continues to ban the Communist Party, and jails West German friends of peace, and as long as Hitler's aides hold positions of responsibility in Bonn."

March Ban For Social Democrats

Leaders of the West German Social Democratic Party banned their members from taking part in the "Aldermaston" anti-A-bomb marches planned in different parts of West Germany for the Easter weekend. They based their veto on an official party decision opposing all marches and demonstrations which called for unilateral disarmament or rejected storage of atomic weapons in West Germany. In recent public statements, Social Democratic leaders like Willy Brandt, West Berlin mayor and candidate for Chancellor of West Germany, have endorsed atomic arms for West Germany.

Car Workers Laid Off

The Borgward Car Factory in Bremen, one of the major car manufacturers in West Germany, announced that it would have to lay off 2500 employees after Easter. The Borgward company, which recently changed hands following the bankruptcy of the former owners, is the first West German firm in this industry to show signs of the recent economic difficulties in the United States, Britain and other countries.

Keeping "Heimat" Fires Burning

Erich Schellhaus, Cabinet Minister in West Germany's Lower Saxony Province, was the latest to use West Berlin as a sounding board for territorial claims on Poland. At a rally on March 19th of 2000 people from the old German province of Silesia, awarded to Poland by the Potsdam Agreement, Schellhaus said that the western areas of Poland were "eastern territories of Germany", which were crying out "for their legitimate owners". Minister Schellhaus had been a mayor in Silesia during the nazi period and had been an officer in the nazi Wehrmacht. He now heads the "Silesian Landmannschaft", one of the main organisations in West Germany to stir up demands for Polish territory.

The rally was held in West Berlin's central Congress Hall with express permission of the West Berlin authorities.

Another leader of the Silesian revanchist organisation, Count Kraffto von Metnitz, also told the excited crowd that "Upper Silesia is German". Much of Upper Silesia was awarded to Poland as early as the 1920's after a plebiscite.

A similar rally was held in Hanover, West Germany, on the same day by the "Silesian Landsmannschaft". Prime Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassel of Schleswig-Holstein province in West Germany, a top-ranking leader in Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party, told the rally that "we shall not give up our claims to the German borders of 1937". (These borders include large sections of Poland and parts of the Soviet Union.)

Oxford University Press Exhibits

The Oxford University Press opened a first exhibit of its books in East Berlin as part of an exchange agreement with the Akademie Verlag publishers of the GDR. The agreement foresees a similar exhibit of the German publishers' books in Oxford from April 7th to 14th. This is the first exchange of its kind between publishers in Britain and the GDR. The two publishing houses both specialise in non-fiction works of a more serious kind.

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

In our first 1961 issue, we asked readers to tell us what they think about GERMAN REPORT. Ever since, completed forms have been coming in from a total of 28 different countries in all continents: altogether about 400 replies have been received. Our thanks to all those readers who have taken the time and trouble to fill in the form and mail it to us; now we have a clearer picture than ever before of who our readers are, and what they expect from this paper.

It is always difficult to draw conclusions from a public opinion poll of this nature, since it is naturally the keen and most interested readers who answer the questions, but we were pleased to find that nearly every reply received indicated that GERMAN REPORT is regarded as interesting, informative, and useful. About 65% of readers report that they use the facts they learn from GERMAN REPORT in discussions; 25% write letters to politicians and the press; and 18% pass the paper on to friends.

Here is a statistical breakdown of the composition of the readership of the paper:

industrial workers, unemployed	27%
clerical workers, civil servants	10%
teachers, students	33%
businessmen, shopkeepers	11%
professions	11%
farmers	1%
others	7%

About half the replies came from readers in Britain; 10% from other western European countries; 12% from socialist countries, and the remainder from all other parts of the globe. By and large the answers were proportional to circulation, though readers in socialist countries appear to be better form fillers than the average, and readers in Canada appear to be poor form-fillers.

One of the main questions on our form was whether readers would like to see more, less, or about the same on various themes. A majority of readers wanted more, or the same amount of everything; to meet their wishes, we should have to publish a paper which is twice as big as at present, and this is impossible. There was, however, one very clear trend: most readers want at least the same amount of information about nazis and militarists in West Germany, but an overwhelming majority want more articles about life in the German Democratic Republic (97% want more or the same, 3% want less). You may

By John Peet

have noted that recent numbers of GERMAN REPORT have begun to reflect this, and we shall do all we can in coming numbers to inform you more fully about the GDR.

Themes particularly requested on GDR life included industry and socialist planning; everyday life and living standards; culture and arts; education and children; how government works; trade unions; science and technology.

Other readers suggested a bigger paper, a letter column, more humour, a stamp corner; and very many indeed asked for more photographs. All suggestions made will be seriously considered, though reasons of space will obviously make it impossible for us to comply with them all. And once again, many thanks to the 400 readers who told us what they thought, and so helped to edit GERMAN REPORT.

More Globke

Are you tired of hearing about Dr Globke, Adenauer's Secretary of State? I am, heartily, but I fear we shall have to keep on returning to the subject until the pressure of public opinion in West Germany and all over the world finally forces Chancellor Adenauer to sack him.

As everybody really should know by this time, Dr Hans Globke helped to draft the Nuremberg Laws, the basic nazi anti-Semitic legislation, and held high office in the Ministry of the Interior throughout the nazi period.

Every since the full documents from the nazi archives were published last summer, Adenauer has been trying to find excuses for the fact that his chief personal assistant was very intimately connected with the nazi slaughter campaign. His main excuse has been that Dr Globke had been asked by the Catholic Church to stay at his post in order to "prevent worse things happening". Globke himself has made the classic excuse of every anti-Semite: "Some of my best friends are Jews."

On March 13th, Adenauer supporters played what they felt was a trump card in the campaign to rehabilitate Globke. They published a statement made by Father Prinz, of the Jesuit Order, stating that Globke had stayed at his post in 1933 when Hitler came to power "on the express request of the (Catholic) Vicar General in Berlin", and that he had managed to get several arrested Jews released.

After the publication of this statement, a reporter from the West German "Frankfurter Abendpost" interviewed Father Prinz. Here is the text of the interview:

Q. Why did you publish this document now, when the attacks on State Secretary Globke appear to be reaching a critical stage?

A. But it is a very old statement. I made it ten years ago.

Q. Why has it only been published now?

A. I don't know why Herr Globke did not publish it previously.

Q. Why did you make this statement ten years ago?

A. In connection with denazification proceedings.

Q. Aha. It is one of the so-called 'whitewash statements'. Did you learn of these facts personally, or were you told by someone who knows the facts?

A. Globke himself told me, or it might have been his wife.

Q. You are therefore relying on his own statement?

A. Yes, but it is one hundred percent correct.

Q. How do you know?

A. Because Globke was a friend of mine.

This interview needs no comment.

There is another little point about Dr. Globke's history which really deserves to be brought into the light of day. The whole case for his defence rests upon the claim that he personally abhorred nazi policy, and particularly nazi anti-Semitic policy, but that he stayed at his post under the nazis as a "resistance fighter".

Premature Anti-Semite

Globke's personal file, however, contains an interesting document, in Globke's own handwriting, dated December 23rd 1932, one whole month before Hitler came to power. This document is the draft of a circular to police officials throughout Prussia, instructing them that Jews who wished to change their names should not be allowed to do so. Globke's manuscript note states:

"Efforts made by Jews ... to change their names cannot be supported. The fact that they have become Christians is no reason for a change of name, and the argument that they wish to take this step because of anti-Semitic tendencies ... cannot be accepted."

And it should be noted that this memorandum was drafted well before Hitler came to power.

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